

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 514

By Mitchell

A RESOLUTION to commemorate "Copperhead Road" by Steve Earle on its designation as a State song of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, beginning with the adoption of the State flag in 1905, Tennessee has seen fit to designate various symbols, songs, and poems as having particular significance to the spirit, culture, and history of this State; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of House Bill 1437 / Senate Bill 1521 during the first legislative session of the 113th General Assembly, "Copperhead Road" by Steve Earle has been designated a State song of Tennessee, taking its rightful place alongside the likes of "Tennessee Waltz," "Smoky Mountain Rain," and "Rocky Top" in the pantheon of songs that encapsulate a bit of the culture and ethos of our State; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Earle wrote the song while imprisoned in Dallas, Texas, "Copperhead Road" takes place in the backwoods of East Tennessee; Copperhead Road was once the name of a road near Mountain City in Johnson County—that is until enthusiastic fans of the popular tune stole the road sign and continued to steal any replacement signage, necessitating the road's name change to Copperhead Hollow Road; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Earle's song is a first-person account of John Lee Pettimore III, third of his name and third in a line of bootleggers; although he witnessed his grandfather's troubles and his father's death as a result of bootlegging moonshine, the youngest Pettimore nonetheless enters into the family business of bootlegging upon returning from two tours of duty in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, released in 1988 as the title track to Steve Earle's third studio album, "Copperhead Road" reached No. 10 on the *Billboard* Rock Tracks chart; to date, more than one

million digital copies of the song have been purchased, and the song's official music video has become Mr. Earle's most popular, with more than 223 million views; and

WHEREAS, Steve Earle was born Stephen Fain Earle on January 17, 1955, in Fort Monroe, Virginia; in addition to his career as an American rock, country, and folk singer-songwriter, he is also a record producer, author, and actor; and

WHEREAS, with its designation as a Tennessee state song, "Copperhead Road" will henceforth hold a place of honor among the official symbols of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to commend this exceptional song and the man who penned and popularized it on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend Steve Earle's "Copperhead Road" on its designation as a Tennessee State Song.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.